

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00823 041746Z

45 S  
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 RSC-01 ( ISO ) W  
----- 025611

R 041540Z FEB 75  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 103  
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 823

STADIS//////////

FOR THE SECRETARY, THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS, AND THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAID, SA, US, USSAEC  
SUBJECT: U.S. ECONOMIC COMMISSION OFFICE IN SAUDI ARABIA

1. I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN FROM THE NEA WEEKLY STATUS  
REPORT OF JAN 24 THAT THERE WAS STILL SOME QUESTION IN  
WASHINGTON ABOUT THE SATUS OF THE NEW SAUDI-U.S. ECONOMIC  
COMMISSION TO BE LOCATED IN RIYADH. I WAS EVEN MORE  
SURPRISED TO READ IN A LETTER FROM PARSKY THAT NEITHER  
TREASURY NOR ANYONE ELSE QUESTIONED THE ROLE OF THE  
AMBASSADOR IN "OVERALL POLICY GUIDANCE" AND THAT THE  
DIRECTOR OR HIS DEPUTY WOULD KEEP THE AMBASSADOR  
BRIEFED ON IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS, BUT THAT THE  
COMMISSION WOULD BE AUTONOMOUS, RATHER LIKE THE  
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SERVICE.

2. I PRESUME PARSKY PRESUMES TOO MUCH. THE STATE  
DEPARTMENT IS STILL IN CHARGE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AND I THINK PARSKY AND COMPANY SHOULD BE TOLD FLATLY  
(NO NEGOTIATIONS) THAT IT WILL REMAIN SO. THERE  
WILL BE NO RPT NO SECOND U.S. EMBASSY FOR ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS IN SAUDI ARABIA. THIS WOULD SURELY BE AS  
REPUGNANT TO THE KISSINGER/ROBINSON/ENDERS ECONOMIC  
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TEAM AS IT WOULD BE TO ME. IT WOULD ALSO CONFUSE

THE SAUDIS AND IN THE END ERODE THE EFFECTIVENESS  
OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION ITSELF.

3. THE IDEA OF THE SPECIAL U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP  
ORIGINATED IN THIS EMBASSY AND WITHOUT THE EMBASSY  
IT WOULD NEVER HAVE GOTTEN OFF THE GROUND. ASSUMING  
WE SURVIVE OUR CURRENT POLITICAL PROBLEMS, THE ECONOMIC  
RELATIONSHIP WILL BE BY FAR THE MOST IMPORTANT PART  
OF U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONS AND, IN FACT, ONE OF THE MOST  
IMPORTANT PARTS OF U.S.-ARAB RELATIONS. THIS COMMISSION  
MUST BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE EMBASSY.

4. THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS THIS COULD BE HANDLED:

A) THE COMMISSION HEAD COULD BE DIRECTLY UNDER THE  
ECONOMIC MINISTER (WHEN THE POST IS RAISED TO CLASS  
ONE);

B) THE COMMISSION HEAD IN RIYADH COULD BE GIVEN THE  
TITLE OF ECONOMIC MINISTER, WITH AT LEAST NOMINAL  
CONTROL OVER THE REST OF THE EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC/  
COMMERCIAL SECTION;

C) THE COMMISSION HEAD COULD BE GIVEN THE TITLE OF  
COUNSELOR FOR DEVELOPMENT AFFAIRS, AND RANK JUST UNDER  
THE MINISTER COUNSELOR.

5. IN ALL CASES THE COMMISSION HEAD WOULD BE DIRECTLY  
UNDER THE AMBASSADOR AND THE DCM; ALL SUBSTANTIVE RE-  
PORTS WOULD BE CLEARED PRIOR TO SUBMISSION.

6. YOU WILL RECALL THAT I HAD BEEN PREPARED TO ACCEPT  
A TREASURY ATTACHE BUT THE DEPARTMENT WAS UNWILLING TO  
TURN OVER THIS IMPORTANT FUNCTION TO TREASURY. THIS IS  
SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT AND SO BASIC AN ISSUE THAT THERE  
CAN NOT NOT BE ANY QUESTION OF YIELDING OR EVEN  
COMPROMISE.

7. I WOULD NOT HAVE THOUGHT IT NECESSARY TO RAISE THIS  
WITH YOU WERE IT NOT FOR TREASURY'S EXTRAORDINARY ASSUMP-  
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TION THAT IT HAS ALREADY WON THE BUREAUCRATIC BATTLE. (TO  
SAY I EXPECT YOUR SUPPORT WOULD BE REDUNDANT.)  
AKINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ECONOMIC COOPERATION, COMMITTEES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 FEB 1975  
**Decapton Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decapton Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ACTION SS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
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**Review Comment:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** U.S. ECONOMIC COMMISSION OFFICE IN SAUDI ARABIA  
**TAGS:** EAID, SA, US, USSAEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006